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U.S. Loses Soviet Informers

Executions Reported In Security Lapses

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LOS ANGELES, April 11—Soviet informers working for the United States disappeared or were executed as a result of compromised security at the U.S. embassy in Moscow, an informed administration source said today.

"The history has been that when there is a security breach, often there are reprisals, including the death of agents. We are all very worried about it," the source said.

The Washington Times and the Los Angeles Times have reported that several informers have been arrested and executed since 1985, ending some of the best-placed U.S. intelligence operations inside Soviet borders.

The informed source said U.S. officials were not certain what happened to some Soviet informers who disappeared.

President Reagan charged in his weekly radio address today that the Soviets have "gone beyond the bounds of reason in their efforts to compromise the security of our current embassy in Moscow."

He was referring to the espionage case in which Marine guards are charged with allowing Soviet agents access to the American embassy in Moscow, where they planted listening devices.

"Unfortunately, no one is suggesting that Soviet espionage is not a fact of life. But what seems to be emerging is the picture of an intense espionage strategy that reflects a callous disregard for the consequences of such actions," he said.

"At the site of our new embassy, sensors and listening devices have been discovered in the materials for the new building," he added, reiterating last week's announcement that the building will not be occupied until it is "safe and secure."

Reagan has been making a high-profile effort this week to show that he is trying to address the espionage problem. He has blamed it on the Soviets, not on his administration, which was warned in earlier years about possible lapses.

Today, he said the Soviets violated the "spirit and letter" of agreements on embassy construction dating back to 1969. "We do not take this lightly," he added, saying that he has ordered two investigations into the episode, one by the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board, a group that issued one of the earlier warnings about security problems.

Noting that Secretary of State George P. Shultz left today for Moscow, Reagan said the disclosures will make the meetings there "much weightier than expected."

Before his radio address today, the president surprised reporters by making a voice test over an open microphone, similar to his famous crack in 1984 that he had outlawed the Soviet Union and bombing would begin in five minutes.

This time, however, Reagan said, "My fellow Americans, having had a bad experience with one of these voice checks once before, finding it in the press the next day—I'm not going to say anything."